

State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
750 Hearst Castle Rd.
San Simeon, CA 93452

PROJECT TITLE: Molinari Prescribed Fire Management

LOCATION: Hearst San Simeon State Park

COUNTY: San Luis Obispo

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

Conduct an approximately 175 acre prescribed burn with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) at Hearst San Simeon State Park to maintain a perennial native bunchgrass grassland, reduce invasive exotic plants, weed seedlings, and fuel load, and allow appropriate native plant community succession on the coastal prairie. The burn area is bounded by Highway 1, Van Gordon Creek Road, San Simeon Creek Rd, and private ranchland.

Work will:

- Mow and chip vegetation using hand crews and a tractor mower to install a fire break along the fence lines bordering the Molinari property, up to 6,500 feet in length and 10 feet in width.
- Install a wet line of fire retardant foam.
- Conduct the prescribed burn with hand-held drip torches.

This fire may be allowed to burn to Highway 1, in consultation with CalTrans, thus reducing the extent of cut lines needed. The return interval will initially include up to 3 consecutive annual, spring-time burns and thereafter one burn every decade.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: San Luis Obispo Coast District

EXEMPT STATUS:

☒ Categorical Exemption Class: 4 Section: 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

Project consists of minor public alterations in the condition of land and vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees and is included as "prescribed burns to restore native vegetation, reduce fuel loads, and control invasive exotic or alien species" and "resource management projects" in the Department of Park and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR §15300.4.

CONTACT: Doug Barker, District Environmental Coordinator
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Nicholas Franco, District Superintendent

DATE

11/7/12